The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME 1 OCTOBER, 1942 NUMBER 3

"We will not let you down," declared the Commander in Chief to the youth in the armed forces of the United States, and after them to those of all the United Nations around the battle-girt globe from Reykjavik to Rabaul. "We here at home," he continued, "are supremely conscious of our obligations to you now and in the future."

In the face of mutiny among munitioneers, thievery of ration cards and the reluctance of medical men to don the uniform, we still can hope that this splendid promise was justified, that 99 44/100% of the soldiers on the home front, inspired by the gallant conduct of their own flesh and blood in the air, afield and at sea, do stand behind the President and his pledge.

Certainly, as it applies to the present, there can be no holding back. The callous self-interest of the striker, the malefactor or the hesitant bearer of Caduceus places enlightened existence itself in danger. Promises, however bright, will prove empty indeed if the war should be lost. In that extremity we need not bother to plan for a future which will be plotted to the last detail without our collaboration or consent.

But as to the future, who can say that the various political blocks in the Congress which at present are in the saddle will subordinate their selfish policies in the prevention of inflation? Failing that, the inevitable catastrophe would nullify the est intended assurances and result in a -down for returning soldiers and sailors nich by comparison would dwarf the disillusionment of 1918.

It behooves us all therefore to sink our differences, stop the chiseling and get behind our Commander in a sustained effort to win the war. Those of us who are left at home must assume the double burden of maintaining civilian efficiency and morale through protecting health, and we must do our best to protect the interests of our fellow practitioners who have accepted active war service. We must justify the President's faith and not let them down.

More and more physicians have rallied to the colors in recent weeks to meet military needs. But the drain will continue as the quotas are called. The care of civilians will fall upon fewer and older practitioner. Up to the present writing, no great epidemics have multiplied that burden as was the case in 1917, but there is no assurance that this fortunate condition will continue indefinitely. Several measures would help to ease this burden.

Patients must cooperate by meeting the physician part way, coming to the office when they can and eliminating late and needless calls in so far as possible. Women who have time on their hands should enroll in classes for nurses' aids, practical nurses and housekeepers. Mothers should learn how to handle the minor ills of their children and revive the old New England tradition of good neighborliness, especially in times of stress. Most important, however, it is for the physician to keep fit by taking the prescriptions for good hygiene and avoidance of excesses which he so glibly passes out for recompense.

"And now if I shall fulfill this oath

(Continued on Page Five)

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

OFFICERS OF THE
HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

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THE HIPPOCRAT

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"Today ours is a world imperiled by conservatism," declared Dean Robert Russell Wicks pinch-hitting for Dr. Fosdick during the past summer. He went on to explain that abundance of living produces contentment, which leads in turn to lethargy. Inevitably, succeeding commotion promotes upheaval until "stagnant minds start thinking again... Thus humanity is renewed, (but) always from the bottom."

Pathetically few readers of the Hippocrat will recall that we ventured out, in our June issue, where angels should fear to tread among the thousand and one world commentators. We tangled with Dr. Gilkey over the pathognomy of the present cosmic maladjustment. But we needed the incisive Gallic logic of Raoul de Roussy de Sales (1.) to convince ourselves that while we were both right so far as we went, we erred in not realizing that economic and nationalistic factors are inextricably intertwined in this extraordinary war. But M. de Sales was kind enough to state that such confusion is explicable in America where the inevitability of our involvement in the struggle even now scarcely is realized.

Understandable likewise are the dreams of physicians of the continuation of untrammeled practice after the war, in spite of the fact that the great numbers of current medical graduates who are entering directly into the armed services will need placement then, and dislocated populations will require medical oversight. Governmental intervention seems inescapable. Already in fact, the statement is current that the War Manpower Commission should ration medical manpower just as the O. P. A. does with other esentials of civilian life. Surgeon General Parran offers the suggestion that the wartime service of every doctor and nurse in the United States be allocated by this body wherever the need is greatest. (2) And what will privately supported hospitals do except turn to federal subsidization when Brother Morgenthau will have achieved the collectivist ideal of diverting all private trickles into the one large puddle?

It was brash enough to take issue with one brilliant clergyman. Why should we risk a second imbroglio? At least we can go along with Dr .Wicks, as we have been trained to do in medical investigation, and face the facts with disciplined minds, avoiding the tank-trap of holding to one opinion without regard to contradictory ideas. We will thus be better prepared for what lies ahead—provided we win this war!

But Dr. Hu Shih insists that to win is not enough, "that mankind must resolve to make this the last war." Thanks to Pan American Airways and H. R. Luce,, (3) you may read his able arguments. More teeth, however, must be provided for the jaws of war-prevention than were filed at the cessation of the 'War to end Wars'! China's great philosopher deserves

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respectful attention. The dicta of his fellow-countryman, Lin Yutang, are, perhaps, more suited to our intelectual level. It is comforting to learn from the latter (4) that the Chinese suspect of being untrue arguments which are too logical. "There is always danger that we regard abstract thinking as the highest function of the human mind, to be valued over and above simple common sense."

What Drs. Wicks and Gilkey would say to this, we shall not presume to forecast. To the saddened but wiser son of France it would be too obvious to argue. The philosopher from Hankow, lately of Washington, doubtless would agree that surveying the forest to select timber for future building should be left to superior lumberman like himself, and that common sense should confine the average man who cannot see the woods to felling and quartering his allotted tree. But even we must admit that no longer may we 'let the chips fall where they may.'

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(1) 'The Making of Tomorrow,' 1942, Reynal and Hitchcock, Inc., N. Y.

(2) 'This Week,' New York Herald Tribune, September 20, 1942.

(3) 'Life,' issue of September 21, 1942.

(4) 'With Love and Irony,' 1940, The John Day Co., N. Y.

HOT FLASHES

Should you be caught in an air raid, be sure to lie flat, preferably with feet against the curb, at least thirty feet from the spot marked X. Otherwise the X will become permanent.

A colorless chemical containing nitrogen has been extracted from ragweed pollen and indicted with the crime of hayfever.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

I have a patient who works at ———— Manufacturing Company, who became ill medically, and says he is entitled to twenty-five dollars a week and treatment and hospitalization through the ———— Insurance Company. He must have the plant physician, Dr. B., however.

If this thing holds, how can a doctor make a living in a community? Isn't this regimentation of a worse type than the New Deal wants for us?

Very truly yours, Dr. A

Answer to Dr. A.'s Letter

To the Editor:

Thank you for giving me Dr. A.'s letter. I took time out to spend an hour at his home. I find that the patient told him an untruth, that this man received fifteen dollars a week after the eighth day of his illness, and the physician is not paid by the insurance company. He has a free choice of physicians.

This is an example of a patients' telling an untruth to a doctor, and inasmuch as Dr. A. is newly arrived in this country, I was glad to be able to explain it to him. Misunderstandings can be straightened out by just such mediums as this periodical, in this way.

Yours very truly,
Dr. B.

Some beleaguered Britishers are feeding black currant syrup in place of legendary orange juice, believing it five times richer in vitamin C. But then, that rugged race has been known to exhibit green gooseberries as fruit!

Wind is the main hazard to parachute jumpers according to army doctors. It also hampers councilors in transacting business.

Dentists & Surgeons Supply Co.
340 Bridge Street
Springfield Massachusetts

Harris Pharmacy
139 Chestnut Street
Springfield Massachusetts

Blue Shield

Sept. 15, 1942

Dear Dr. McCann:

The only comment I would make on your fee schedule is that $40 for the care of an obstetrical cases is way out of line. I do not do obstetrics.

C——.

September 29th, 1942

Dear Dr. C——:

At the request of Dr. James C. McCann, I am answering your letter of September 24th. There was a good deal of discussion concerning the fee schedule for obstetrics. As you know, a Committee on Rates met at the Medical Library and spent a great deal of time in the discussion of all rates. It was found that down on the Cape, for instance, there is by agreement a charge of $35.00, which includes complete office care and delivery. Men from the Middlesex North District felt that $35.00 would be satisfactory.

We found that in Worcester some of the O. B. and Gynocological men are doing O. B. cases for a total of $50.00. The Committee felt that a fair medium would be $40.00 when it is considered that prenatal and postnatal care are not included in this figure.

It is important that this Corporation start on a reasonable basis, which is believed to be actuarially sound. It is expected that after a reasonable period of trial and error there must be changes upward and downward in the fee schedule and that there will be the need for many administrative adjustments.

It is gratifying to see the large number of agreements coming in from the physicians of the Commonwealth. At the present time we are averaging better than one hundred a day. Without the Participating Physicians, the Corporation cannot start to enroll subscribers. It is hoped that the physicians will recognize the existence of some seeming inequalities, agree to go along with the Corporation, and assist it in fulfilling its purpose. Whatever the men get for their services as members of this new Corporation it will probably be a good deal more than they would receive if Government does the job.

The Eliot Bill now before Congress, if passed, will be disastrous, and one of the best arguments against the Bill will be the increasing interest in physicians in providing their own voluntary plans with the budgeting of medical costs.

Sincerely yours,

R. F. CAHALANE

Executive Director

October 1, 1942

It would seem that the Blue Shield has something to offer the Welfare and Relief Agencies.

Within the year one of these Bureaus has sent a letter to Springfield physicians dictating a fee schedule which they would pay for medical services. When asked why they supposed they could establish the doctor's fee, the reply was that there was no difficulty in getting physicians to make calls at reduced rates.

Every physician willingly gives his services when it appears that a charge would work a financial hardship on an underprivileged family, but it arouses some resentment and hurts his self respect a little to feel that he is being chiseled.

While at present the Massachusetts' Medical Service provides only for surgical, obstetrical and urological patients in hospitals, the support of the relief agencies throughout the state would be of mutual advantage to these agencies and to the physicians affiliated with the Blue Shield, and would hasten the time when medical care as well as surgical service would be available to all Blue Shield subscribers.

With increased taxes, increased living costs, and increased wages for other types of work, there is no reason why physicians should accept less than a regular fee from the social agencies. G. L. S.

Massachusetts Wholesale Drug Co., Inc.

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Cancer

At the meeting of the Council, called for October 7, 1942, the report of the Committee on Cancer was considered. The details were published in the September 17th number of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Again we find that citizens of Massachusetts have shown the way to limit the inroads of malignant disease which, since the general advancement of life expectancy, has climbed so near the top of the causes of human mortality. The medical profession, particularly the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, have cooperated with the State Department of Public Health most satisfactorily to achieve this desired status. And Hampden County has benefitted as well as the rest of the Commonwealth. The Cancer Clinic as conducted at the Westfield Sanatorium was approved as "well run" by the investigator, Dr. Channing S. Simmons, who was appointed by President Ober with approval of the Council. His recommendation that the clinic be continued will be seconded by most Hampden County citizens, whether laic or professional.

Last month at a meeting of the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety, the request was announced of the Army for use of the facilities of the State Hospital at Westfield as a base hospital. Dr. Pope was kind enough to allay the fear that this important work might be suspended through the exigencies of war by furnishing the latest information on the subject in the appended letter under date of September 22, 1942. For the present at least, the work will continue without interruption at Wetsfield.

My dear Hippocrat:

While it is true that spare facilities at the Westfield State Sanitorium will be used as an army base hospital in case of need, I would say that this applies only to the buildings not now being used for patients. In other words, the present tuberculosis and cancer hospital will continue to be operated on the present basis by the Department, leaving the old buildings, which are at present vacant, for use by the army. Representatives of the Department have been over the whole situation with army medical officials from the First Service Command, and have agreed to such a provisional use of the old hospital buildings. In case of such emergency use, the old buildings of the hospital would still be under the direction of Dr. Morgan, and the present surgical and radiological facilities of the hospital would be available to both civilian and army services.

As to the question of discontinuing the Springfield Cancer Clinic, may I say that the Department has every intention of continuing this clinic if sufficient funds can be obtained from the State Legislature. Our Federal budget for 1942-1943 has been substantially reduced, but we have requested funds from the Legislature for the continuation of the Springfield clinic unit.

If this does not answer the questions which you had in mind, kindly let me know and I shall be glad to let you have any further information available on the subject.

I am happy to tell you that Dr. Morgan is getting along very well, and will again be on duty in the not too distant future.

Alton S. Pope,
Deputy Commissioner of Public Health

EDITORIAL **From Page 1**

and break it not, may the fruits of life and of art be mine, may I be honored of all men for all time; the opposite, if I shall transgress and be forsworn."

—Hippocrates of Cos

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Academy Notes

Dear Hippocrat:

The Academy of Medicine will inevitably show a reduced membership for the duration as many of those who regularly attend will be in the armed services. For those who are here we are planning as much war medicine and surgery as we can get in.

In addition to the talk on "Fractures" given by Dr. A. William Regzio of Boston at our first meeting, the October meeting will bring Dr. Joseph Aub to talk about traumatic shock in general, and there will be an excellent sound and colored moving picture telling all about shock and how to handle it so that ought to be a good meeting.

In November Dr. Oliver Cope is going to talk on the subject of chemical burns and burn shock which ought to be another humdinger.

The interest and anxiety over war conditions appears to be an obstacle to a reading club which here-to-fore had met here regularly every Tuesday at noon. Men are probably doing reading just the same but they are not interested in gathering for the general reviews which used to be so helpful and interesting. If enough men show interest this year we can start it again but the men taking part would have to be interested in reading and willing to report in brief on their reading.

Thus far we have had no difficulty in getting speakers to come to the academy but I feel fairly certain that it will be a little bit difficult getting speakers this year due to the fact that so many of them are away or tied up in one activity or another. However, we will try to carry on. J. A. Seaman, Sec.

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The Services

HOLYOKE

Lt. Noah N. Feldman of Holyoke wrote to his wife on August 20th that he had entrenched himself, along with the other gallant marines, on Guadalcanal Island. He reported the best of spirits and a high anticipation among the avengers of the U. S. Marines who died defending Wake Island. Newspaper correspondents in subsequent weeks have described the daily life around that vital air port as verging on the primitive, with almost continual air-raid warnings when naval shells are not threatening. The repeated attempts of the Japs to recapture the field and the not inconsiderable 'face' which they lost in the Solomons sufficed to divert attention from the other frenzied race in the National League.

The other volunteers from Holyoke who have entered the various armed services include John J. Driscoll, Lt. U. S. N.; Capt. Leo A. Byrnes, Army A. C.; Capt. Wm. W. Teahan, R. I. Evac. Hospital Unit; Lt. Harry A. Baker, U. S. A.; Lt. Edgar J. Fleury, U. S, A.; Capt. Leo J. Mandeville, Army A. C.; Lt. Comdr. Samuel Fox, U. S. N.; James Byrnes, Lt. Comm., U S. N., and Maj Lionel M. Ives, Army A. C.

SPRINGFIELD

September 3, 1942

The following men have left the Wesson Hospital for service:

Dr. J. Robert Agnew
Dr. Harold F. Budington
Dr. Henry Greenbaum
Dr. R. Nelson Hatt
Dr. Philip A. Kees
Dr. Thomas G. Little
Dr. Nelson Newmork
Dr. Horace B. Pease

W. E. MARTIN
Prescription Pharmacy
876 Hampden Street Holyoke

The following men are reported as having left the Mercy Hospital for war service. Many others are in proces of arranging their affairs:

ARMY

Captain Martin Murray
1st Lieut. William S. Coen
1st Lieut. Michael Cogan
Lieut. Francis Kanski
Edward M. Sullivan

NAVY

Lieut. Comdr. Samuel Segal
Dr. John R. Gateley
Lieut. Comdr. Martin Gaynor

AVIATION

Captain Philip Kees

At the date of Sept. 28, 1942, thirty-one (31) physicians on the staff of the Springfield Hospital have entered the service of the United States armed forces. These are:

R L. Barrett	Calvert Stein
R. N. Hatt	John Truslow
A. S. Johnson	Fredric D. Lake
C. A. Schilander	Mendell Mazier
A. M. Glickman	Nelson Newmark
J. A. Bruce	Norman Popkin
F. A. Mahoney	Joseph Slowick
H. B. Pease	Robert G. Ernst
H. L. Strachen	Edward J. Roy
P. C. Carson	Howard N. Gourlie
L. L. Huston	Howard N. Simpson
S. R. Feldman	John C. Tate
Samuel Segal	Harry N. Memory
N. Z. Grover	Joseph M. Kochanek
Jacob I. Weisman	T. J. Valenski

Thomas G. Little, D.D.S.

Immediate recent house officers in oddition to the above are:

Ronald Grant	Julian Nickoski
Francis F. Cary	Bartlett H. Stone
Walter D. Hawk	Jack Wool
Saul C. Levine	Ivan D. Frantz

K. W. Sinish

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N. P. C.

Now that the work of the National Physicians Committee has been endorsed by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, the questions, which up to now may have inhibited contributions to this auxiliary non-profit organization of physicians, have been answered most effectively. The sanction of our Massachusetts representative on the Board of Trustees, President-elect Roger I. Lee, has been substantiated.

Since the decision of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia adjudged the practice of medicine to be "trade and commerce, and that criminal restraints are in operation," only by new Federal legislation can professional status and safeguards be preserved unless the Supreme Court of the United States should grant a hearing and reverse the decision.

New legislation means organized effort. Effort calls for sinews, sinews donors and donors participation.

It was voted by the Council this spring to have all bills for the Massachusetts Medical Society mailed from Boston directly to the individual Fellows and payments to be made to the Treasurer of the State Society at 8 Fenway, Boston. Thus, when paying dues January 1st, 1943, bear the above in mind and do not send them to the County Treasurer.

Fellows who have entered the armed services should apply to the State Treasurer in writing for remission of dues for the duration of service. Those who desire to receive the Journal must send a subscription fee of $4.00 direct to Boston. It would be wise to notify the Journal of address change a few weeks in advance if possible.

WAYNE C. BARNES, Secretary.

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"Judge Not--That Ye Be Not Judged"

(St. Matthew 7:1)

"There are those who will go and those who will remain. Those who go will be stimulated by several and different emotions. Some will be following thru in their Reserve Corps Membership. Others will properly sense that early commissions should bring early advancement. Still others know that come what may, others before them met like issue with little thot of self. But after all 'tis not only self, but others; wives, children, responsibilities, which have to be cooperative in one's war thinking.

In 1917 it took long months for many medical men to adjust themselves to a military future and their families to a changed status. Twenty-five years ago the draft was less drastic in forcing the hand of the waverer. We of the '17-'18 period did not want war either.

Be this as it may, we can be justly proud of the ever increasing degree of responsibility demonstrated by the partial Roll Call of this issue of the Hypocrat. Even the most essential are letting the government use their talents on the boys who will sooner or later need our best and all of it. Essential! How unfortunate a word. And those of us who see beyond the present will do our utmost to keep burning the memory of sacrifice, which these men would make. And we will keep their place for them!

Those of us who remain because we are so badly needed or because we are too old may well be guided in our thinking by logic. When we have definitely applied for a commission, given up some of our life insurance, sold our cars and moved into the small homes to which we were accustomed before we made good in this fine capitalistic civilization now attacked; then and not until then can we point to the mote, and ignore the beam."